

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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Z 181350Z MAY 78 ZFF1

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9779

S E C R E T KINSHASA 4952

NODIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS ADS-31 DEC. 1984

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK: KINSHASA COORDINATION AND RESCUE OPERATION

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF MEETING, 18 MAY 1978, 0900 HOURS:

2. GENERAL BABIA AT 0900 HOURS LOCAL CALLED AN INITIAL COORDINATING MEETING. PARTICIPANTS WERE FAZ PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICERS, GENERAL SINGA, FRENCH AND BELGIAN MISSION CHIEFS AND STAFF OFFICERS, ALONG WITH CHIEF ZAMISH AND DEPUTY CHIEF ZAMISH.

3. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY ASPECTS OF RESCUE OPERATION. THE OPERATION IS VISUALIZED FOR NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY MORNING 20 MAY.

4. FRENCH PARTICIPATION WILL CONSIST OF A) 700 TROOPS TO BE TRANSPORTED TO KINSHASA IN FIVE DC-8'S. FIRST DC-8 TO ARRIVE APPROXIMATELY 2300 HOURS LOCAL MAY 18. TWO OTHER DC-8S WILL FOLLOW AT 2 HOUR INTERVALS. FRENCH DID NOT KNOW ETA OF LAST TWO DC-8S; B) THREE FRENCH TRANSALLS WILL BE COMING FROM SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, AND GABON; C) THE FRENCH WILL USE KINSHASA AS A STAGING AREA FOR FIRST WAVE TO BE DROPPED, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 350 PERSONNEL. SECOND WAVE WILL BE PREPOSITIONED AT KAMINA AND WILL COME IN FROM THAT LOCATION. THE FRENCH WILL USE FIVE FAZA C-130'S AND THREE TRANSALLS FOR THIS

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OPERATION. THE FRENCH OPERATION WAS PLANNED IN KINSHASA BY COL. GRAS WHO SUBMITTED HIS PLAN TO PARIS AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL MAY 18 FOR APPROVAL. HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY PARIS TO PLAN EITHER A UNILATERAL OR A COMBINED OPERATION, DEPENDING UPON WHETHER THE BELGIANS DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT.

5. COLONEL BLEUS (BELGIAN) STATED THAT THE BELGIAN PLAN IS

BEING PREPARED IN BRUSSELS. HE DOES NOT YET KNOW THE DETAILS. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE GROUP THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO BY MAY 20. BELGIAN PARTICIPATION WILL CONSIST OF 1200 PARATROOPERS, EIGHT C-130'S, AND A MEDICAL BACK-UP UNIT. THE BELGIANS WILL STAGE FROM KAMINA AIR BASE. HE EXPECTED THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN SOMETIME DURING THE DAY. HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT A SIMULTANEOUS FRENCH AND BELGIAN DROP SHOULD BE MADE. COLONEL GRAS STRESSED THAT IF THE BELGIANS WERE NOT READY, THE FRENCH WOULD GO ANYWAY. COLONEL BLEUS STATED THEY WOULD BE READY.

6. GENERAL BABIA THEN ASKED ABOUT U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE REFUELING OPERATION. CHIEF ZAMISH MENTIONED THAT CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE FOR ONE C-141 TO ARRIVE AT APPROXIMATELY 2300 HOURS LOCAL TONIGHT WITH THE NECESSARY REFUELING EQUIPMENT. THE PLAN IS TO MOVE THE GOZ FUEL FROM KINSHASA TO KAMINA TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION. NO SPECIFIC DETAILS AS YET. CHIEF ZAMISH AGAIN ASKED FOR ASSURANCE THAT FUEL AVAILABILITY HAS BEEN VERIFIED AND WAS ASSURED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 14,000 CU METERS OF JP1 AT N'DJILI. ALL AIR FORCE EXPERTS PRESENT AGREED THAT THIS WAS SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE PLANNED OPERATION.

7. DEPT. PLEASE DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA04952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC X1 PER JACKSON SS/I
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850070-1879
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780546/aaaabmhb.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6acc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2653438
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA ATTACK: KINSHASA COORDINATION AND RESCUE OPERATION
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG, FR, BE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6acc309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014